

Message Text

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UNCLAS STATE 116818 TOSEC 040388

FOR HODDING CARTER FROM S/PRS

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: MORNING PRESS SUMMARY, FRIDAY 5/20

NO. 46

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

JOHN MACLEAN FROM GENEVA

LEAD: "SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS R. VANCE AND SOVIET FOREIGN
MINISTER ANDREI GROMYKO HELD 'INTENSIVE ... BUSINESS-LIKE'
ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS THURSDAY MORNING AND AGREED TO
EXTEND THEIR TALKS AN EXTRA DAY IF NECESSARY."

OTHER POINTS:

-- NOBODY CLAIMED A BREAKTHROUGH, BUT FACT IDEAS, NOT
INSULTS, EXCHANGED SHOWED IMPROVEMENT OVER MOSCOW MEETING.
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-- AFTERNOON DEVOTED TO MIDEAST. SALT AGAIN ON FRIDAY AND
POSSIBLY SATURDAY MORNING.

-- AMERICAN SPOKESMEN CONTINUED TO DUCK QUESTION ON

WHETHER NEW OFFERS ARE ON TABLE. BUT IT IS CLEAR US HAS
MODIFIED ITS ORIGINAL DEMAND FOR MAJOR CUTS.

-- CARTER SAID PAUSE TO GIVE TIME FOR PARTIES TO REFLECT.
CARTER SAID VANCE IN TOUCH WITH PRESIDENT EVERY DAY;

COMMUNICATIONS WITH PRESIDENT WOULD BE NECESSARY IF NEW PROPOSALS WERE OFFERED.

-- VANCE AND GROMYKO MET 2 HRS 40 MINS. MOOD WAS AMIABLE DURING PHOTO OPPORTUNITY.

NEW YORK TIMES

BERNARD GWERTZMAN FROM GENEVA

LEAD: "SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS R. VANCE AND FOREIGN MINISTER ANDREI A. GROMYKO OF THE SOVIET UNION WERE REPORTED TODAY TO HAVE MADE PROGRESS TOWARD BREAKING A DEADLOCK IN NEGOTIATIONS FOR A TREATY TO LIMIT LONG-RANGE OFFENSIVE NUCLEAR WEAPONS SYSTEMS."

OTHER POINTS:

-- TALKS RECESSED AFTER "INTENSIVE" DAY OF DISCUSSIONS TO GIVE SOVIETS TIME TO CONSULT WITH MOSCOW.

-- AMERICAN REPORTERS WERE TOLD A COMPROMISE IS LIKELY.

-- UNDERSTOOD THAT DISCUSSIONS, 5 HRS OVER TWO DAYS, FOCUSED ON A FRAMEWORK FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS.
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-- AN AMERICAN OFFICIAL SAID "WE WILL KNOW TOMORROW" WHETHER A BREAKTHROUGH HAS BEEN ACHIEVED. ANOTHER DELEGATION MEMBER EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT A COMPROMISE WOULD BE REACHED.

-- COMPROMISE SAID TO HINGE ON "BLENDING" OF THREE PROPOSALS.

-- FORMULA UNDERSTOOD TO KEEP OVERALL FORCE LIMIT AT OR NEAR 2400 TOTAL.

-- BELIEVE THERE WOULD BE A PLEDGE TO START NEGOTIATIONS PROMPTLY ON GREATER REDUCTIONS SOUGHT BY US.

-- COMPROMISE WOULD INCLUDE RESTRAINTS ON CRUISE AND BACKFIRE.

-- MOOD HERE RELAXED, IN CONTRAST TO MOSCOW. AMERICANS SEEMED MORE ENCOURAGED BY PROSPECTS THAN AT ANY TIME IN RECENT WEEKS.

-- BECAUSE OF APPARENT PROGRESS, VANCE HAS DELAYED DEPARTURE 24 HOURS.

-- BACKGROUND ON ISSUES IN DISPUTE.

-- ACTUAL DRAFTING OF TREATY SHOULD NOT TAKE LONG ONCE
FRAMEWORK IS AGREED ON, BECAUSE MOST TECHNICAL SECTIONS
HAVE BEEN WORKED OUT.

-- LIST OF PARTICIPANTS.

WASHINGTON POST

MICHAEL GETLER FROM GENEVA
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LEAD: "TOP-LEVEL US AND SOVIET OFFICIALS REPORTEDLY MADE
SOME PROGRESS HERE ON THE SECOND DAY OF TALKS ABOUT POS-
SIBLE NEW NUCLEAR ARMS LIMITATION AGREEMENTS. THEY SCHED-
ULED A THIRD DAY OF DISCUSSIONS FRIDAY THAT INFORMANTS SAY
IS CRUCIAL TO THE CURRENT ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS."

OTHER POINTS:

-- APPEARED TO HAVE REACHED POINT WHERE FURTHER INSTRU-
CTIONS REQUIRED.

-- SECRECY REMAINS TIGHT. THERE WERE SOME INDICATIONS
THAT DELEGATIONS WERE MAKING SOME PROGRESS TOWARD A
FRAMEWORK.

--ONE OFFICIAL CAUTIONED THAT EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON
FRIDAY'S MEETING.

-- DEPT SPOKESMAN CARTER CHARACTERIZED TALKS ONLY IN
GENERAL TERMS.

-- CARTER SAID PARTIES HAD A VERY THOROUGH REVIEW, BUT
FACT THAT WE HAD OVER FIVE HOURS OF TALKS LEAVES IMPLICA-
TION OF FULL, BUSINESSLIKE, GOOD FAITH NEGOTIATIONS.

-- MIDEAST IN AFTERNOON; SALT TALKS PROBABLY WILL LAST
UNTIL SATURDAY.

-- WALDHEIM LEFT DIFFERENT PICTURE: DEEP DIFFERENCES NOT
YET BRIDGED.

-- WALDHEIM'S REMARKS APPEARED TO RUFFLE SOME US OFFICIALS.
CARTER MADE IT CLEAR WALDHEIM WAS SPEAKING FOR HIMSELF,
AND "SIMPLY DOES NOT KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON INSIDE THE
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ROOM."

-- GROMYKO TOLD REPORTERS BOTH SIDES AGREE BEST FORUM FOR MIDEAST QUESTION IS GENEVA CONF.

-- VANCE AND GROMYKO DESCRIBED MIDEAST SITUATION AS DANGEROUS, BUT VANCE DENIED THIS WAS BECAUSE OF LIKUD VICTORY.

-- MOST LIKELY COMPROMISE ON SALT APPEARS CLOSER TO BREZHNEV VIEWS THAN CARTER PLAN.

-- US OFFICIALS STRESSING PRIVATELY THAT IF COMPROMISE IS WORKED OUT CLOSER TO SOVIET POSITION, IT WILL CONTAIN COMMITMENT TO BEGIN WORK IMMEDIATELY ON SALT III.

-- BACKGROUND ON THE THREE PLANS.

-- SOVIETS HAVE BEEN UNOFFICIALLY REPORTED AS WILLING TO DISCUSS RELATIVELY MINOR REDUCTIONS BELOW VLADIVOSTOK LEVELS.

-- SECRECY IN GENEVA AND WASHINGTON ON QUESTION OF HOW TO WORK OUT CRUISE MISSILE DILEMMA MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE IF REAL BARGAIN CAN BE STRUCK.

WALL STREET JOURNAL

ROBERT KEATLEY FROM GENEVA

LEAD: "THE NUCLEAR ARMS CONTROL TALKS SHOW SIGNS OF MAKING SERIOUS PROGRESS THIS WEEK, ALTHOUGH BOTH SIDES REMAIN TIGHT-LIPPED ABOUT JUST WHAT THEY'RE DOING."

OTHER POINTS:

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-- SALT ADJOURNED AND NEGOTIATORS TURNED TO MIDEAST. SCHEDULED TO RETURN TO SALT TODAY AND PROBABLY WON'T FINISH UNTIL TOMORROW, DAY LATER THAN EXPECTED.

-- TEMPORARY ADJOURNMENT A GOOD OMEN. PURPOSE IS TO ALLOW GROMYKO AND VANCE TO COMMUNICATE WITH CAPITALS ABOUT POSSIBLE COMPROMISES.

-- FOR THE RECORD, TWO POSITIONS REMAIN FAR APART. KEY WORD ON US SIDE SEEMS TO BE "SYNTHESIS."

-- "THIS REFERS TO AN EFFORT TO COMBINE THE TWO DIFFERING POSITIONS SO EACH CAN CLAIM NEGOTIATING SUCCESS, WHILE ENSURING THAT THE TALKS CONTINUE."

-- DEPT SPOKESMAN CARTER SAID TWO SIDES HAD "INTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS" AND REFUSED TO CHARACTERIZE TALKS ANY MORE PRECISELY. PAUSE IS TO ALLOW SIDES TO REFLECT.

--BACKGROUND ON ISSUES IN DISPUTE.

-- TALKS INCLUDE POSSIBILITY OF ADDING SOME SIGNIFICANT NEW TERMS TO VLADIVOSTOK, INCLUDING CUTTING TOTALS BY 10 PERCENT, LIMITS ON CRUISE AND BACKFIRE, AND IMPOSING LIMITS ON MISSILE TESTING.

-- US SEEKING COMMITMENT TO TACKLE OTHER ISSUES AT LATER DATE. IDEALLY, INCLUDING FIRM PROMISES TO TAKE UP PROBLEMS ON FIXED TIMETABLE.

-- COMMUNIQUE EXPECTED TOMORROW BEFORE VANCE RETURNS. MORE NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE NEEDED LATER, AND VANCE MAY HAVE TO RETURN TO MOSCOW TO MEET WITH BREZHNEV.

-- ON MIDEAST, VANCE SUGGESTED THAT US AND SOVIET OFFICIALS MEET MORE OFTEN TO DISCUSS PROGRESS, APPARENTLY AN UNCLASSIFIED

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EFFORT TO SOOTH SOVIET FEELINGS.

-- IF RUSSIANS BECOME MORE INVOLVED, THEY MAY BE ABLE TO PRESSURE PLO. PLO REMAINS MAJOR STUMBLING BLOCK.

-- WHOLE MIDEAST PICTURE HAS BEEN CLOUDED BY RIGHT-WING VICTORY IN ISREAL.

-- WALDHEIM QUOTED ON MIDEAST.

HEARST

JOHN WALLACH FROM GENEVA

LEAD: "PRESIDENT CARTER HAS BEGUN BRIEFING KEY CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS ON THE OUTLINES OF A COMPROMISE NUCLEAR ARMS PACKAGE WHILE US AND SOVIET NEGOTIATING TEAMS HERE CONTINUED 'INTENSIVE' EFFORTS TO DRAFT GUIDELINES FOR FUTURE DRAMATIC REDUCTIONS IN THE ARMS RACE."

-- THIS DISCLOSED BY "SOURCES CLOSE TO SECSTATE" WHO REVEALED THAT SOVIETS WERE CLOSER TO ACCEPTING A "SYNTHESIS" OR BLEND OF THE TWO AMERICAN PROPOSALS REJECTED IN MOSCOW.

-- HODDING CARTER SAID TALKS TODAY WERE CRUCIAL.

-- ASKED IF AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED, CARTER SAID WE HAD A THOROUGH REVIEW AND ANYTHING MORE IS PREMATURE.

-- OTHER US OFFICIALS SAID CONSIDERABLE AGREEMENT WOULD BE REFLECTED IN COMMUNIQUE.

-- AT HEART OF BREAKTHROUGH IS APPARENT SOVIET WILLINGNESS TO BEGIN IMMEDIATE TALKS ON CARTER "DEEP CUTS" PROPOSAL IN RETURN FOR AMERICAN ACCEPTANCE OF BASIC VLADIVOSTOK ACCORDS.

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-- SOVIETS ALSO SAID TO HAVE AGREED TO 10-15 PERCENT CUT IN 2400 CEILING AND TO PUT RESTRAINTS ON MID-AIR REFUELING AND STATIONING OF BACKFIRE TO PREVENT IT FROM BECOMING AN INTERCONTINENTAL WEAPON.

-- BIG QUESTION IS WHAT US HAS AGREED TO DO TO LIMIT DEVELOPMENT OF CRUISE.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

DAVID WILLIS FROM GENEVA

LEAD: "THE FEELING GROWS HERE THAT SOME HEADWAY IS BEING MADE TOWARD BREAKING THE US-SOVIET IMPASSE ON LIMITING STRATEGIC NUCLEAR ARMS."

OTHER POINTS:

-- PATTERN OF INTENSIVE DISCUSSION INDICATED. THIS IS MARKED CHANGE FROM MOSCOW IN MARCH.

-- US SPOKESMAN REFUSES TO USE WORD "NEGOTIATION," INSTEAD STICKING WITH "DISCUSSION." "HE THUS SHOWS THE CAUTION WITH WHICH THE US HAS SURROUNDED THE TALKS SO FAR."

-- NOT POSSIBLE TO JUDGE KIND OF PROGRESS THAT REALISTICALLY CAN BE MADE OR HOW MANY MORE MEETINGS ARE NECESSARY.

-- TALKS MAY EXTEND TO SATURDAY, INDICATING EVEN MORE ROOM FOR DISCUSSION AND PERHAPS NEGOTIATION. NEWSMEN WERE ADVISED VANCE WOULD NOT LEAVE BEFORE NOON SATURDAY, BUT

WOULD LEAVE SATURDAY SOMETIME TO PREPARE FOR FAHD VISIT.

--WARNKE CONTINUES TO WORK WITH SOVIET COUNTERPARTS ON UNCLASSIFIED

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COMMUNIQUE SUMMING UP WEEK OF TALKS ON SECONDARY ISSUES, INCLUDING VERIFICATION, TRANSFER OF WEAPONS AND DATA BASE.

-- IMPRESSION IS THAT WARNKE TALKS HAVE GONE REASONABLY

WELL.

-- SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT FULL RANGE OF ISSUES HAS BEEN DISCUSSED ON ARMS, INDICATING SOVIET WILLINGNESS TO TALK ABOUT ELEMENTS OF US DEEP CUTS PLAN.

-- ONLY SOVIET REACTION HAS COME FROM TASS: NO REACTION. THIS USUALLY CONSIDERED A NEGATIVE SIGN.

REUTERS

ROBERT EVANS FROM GENEVA

LEAD: "SENIOR SOVIET AND AMERICAN OFFICIALS HELD THEIR THIRD SESSION OF TALKS ON A NEW STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION AGREEMENT TODAY AS THE PACE AND INTENSITY OF THE DISCUSSIONS APPEARED TO BE ACCELERATING."

OTHER POINTS:

-- TALKS LIKELY TO CONTINUE TOMORROW MORNING.

-- DELEGATION EXPANDED TO INCLUDE ROWNY.

-- US OFFICIALS SAID THIS ROUND COULD BE CRUCIAL, BUT IT ENDED AFTER AN HOUR.

-- OFFICIALS SAID TALKS AIMED AT FINDING A "BLEND" OR SYNTHESIS OF OPPOSING AMERICAN AND SOVIET PROPOSALS.

-- ATMOSPHERE MARKEDLY DIFFERENT FROM THAT IN MOSCOW IN MARCH.

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--OPTIMISM IN GENEVA LARGELY BASED ON FACT SALT BEING DISCUSSED IN GREAT DETAIL DESPITE DECLARATIONS BY BOTH SIDES THAT THEY WERE STANDING FIRM BY THEIR POSITIONS.

-- BOTH SOVIET SOURCES AND AMERICAN OFFICIALS AGREED THAT POSITIVE CONCLUSIONS COULD BE DRAWN FROM RECOGNITION BY BOTH SIDES THAT THERE WAS A BASIS FOR DISCUSSION.

-- ON MIDEAST, GROMYKO SAID AFTER MEETING THEY HAD AGREED ON NEED TO RECONVENE GENEVA CONF.

-- NO SIGN SIDES HAD OVERCOME DIFFERING VIEWS ON PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION.

-- AMERICAN SPOKESMAN SAID TWO COUNTRIES HAD AGREED CONFERENCE SHOULD GO AHEAD NEXT FALL BUT SAID NO DATE HAD BEEN SET.

AP

BARRY SCHWEID FROM GENEVA

LEAD: "THE SOVIET UNION PRESENTED A 'NUMBER OF IDEAS' TO THE UNITED STATES TODAY ON A NEW TREATY TO LIMIT STRATEGIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS."

OTHER POINTS:

-- SPECIFIC POINTS UNDER DISCUSSION WERE KEPT SECRET. SPOKESMAN HODDING CARTER QUOTED SAYING WE CONTINUE TO WORK INTENSIVELY AND THAT MEETINGS THUS FAR HAVE BEEN WORTH-WHILE.

-- SOVIETS PRESENTED A NUMBER OF IDEAS AND AMERICANS ARE TO RESPOND BY NIGHTFALL.
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-- SPOKESMAN SAID IT WOULD BE SAFE TO ASSUME THAT VANCE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH PRES CARTER BEFORE GIVING RUSSIANS AMERICAN REPLY.

POINTS FROM EARLIER LEAD ON "BREAKTHROUGH:"

-- SHOULD KNOW TODAY OR SATURDAY IF AGREEMENT ON SALT II POSSIBLE.

-- "INFORMED SOURCES" SAID COMPROMISE FORMULA, SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY CARTER AND KREMLIN, WAS BLEND OF RUSSIAN PROPOSAL AND US PACKAGE REJECTED IN MARCH.

-- SOURCES GAVE THIS OUTLINE OF COMPROMISE:

-1- EACH GOVT WOULD MAKE MODEST REDUCTION IN NUCLEAR ARSENAL AND AGREE TO HOLD ANOTHER ROUND OF TALKS ON FURTHER WEAPONS CUTS.

-2- DEVELOPMENT OF CRUISE TO BE LIMITED, AND RESTRICTIONS

ON WHERE BACKFIRE COULD BE BASED.

-- WALDHEIM QUOTED ON "DEEF DIFFERENCES."

-- BACKGROUND ON NEGOTIATING HISTORY.

-- VANCE AND GROMYKO ALSO DISCUSSED MIDEAST, BUT APPARENT THEIR HOPES OF RECONVENING PEACE CONF DIMMED BY LIKUD VICTORY.

-- GROMYKO SAID SITUATION THERE "IS NOT NORMAL" AND IS "POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS." VANCE SAID REGIONS HAS "CONTIN-

UED DANGEROUS FOR A LONG WHILE" BEFORE LIKUD VISTORY.

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UPI

JIM ANDERSON FROM GENEVA

LEAD: "THE SOVIET UNION RESPONDED TODAY TO STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION PROPOSALS MADE BY THE US EARLIER THIS WEEK, A US SPOKESMAN SAID. HE SAID THE SOVIET RESPONSE CONSISTED OF 'A NUMBER OF IDEAS, NOT A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.'"

OTHER POINTS:

-- DISCLOSURE CAME AFTER A "CRUCIAL" NEW ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS.

-- VANCE'S SPOKESMAN, HODDING CARTER, SAID THE SOVIET MADE A PRESENTATION WHICH WE AGREED TO STUDY AND RESPOND TO.

-- CARTER SAID THE AMERICAN RESPONSE WILL BE GIVEN AT SECOND MEETING LATE THIS AFTERNOON.

-- SOVIET RESPONSE WAS GIVEN FRIDAY MORNING AND COMPRISED A NUMBER OF IDEAS, NOT A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.

-- A PENTAGON REP JOINED TEAM FOR FIRST TIME IN 1 HR 10 MIN MEETING.

-- MEETING TOOK PLACE IN TOTAL SECRECY AND REPORTERS WERE NOT PERMITTED IN FOR CUSTOMARY PHOTO.

-- VANCE DID NOT SPEAK TO REPORTERS AFTER MEETING.

-- PREVIOUS SESSIONS LASTED AVERAGE OF 2.5 HOURS.

-- NO EXPLANATION FOR BREVITY OF MEETING.

-- THURS NIGHT ANNOUNCED THAT VANCE AND GROMYKO WERE UNCLASSIFIED

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AWAITING INSTRUCTIONS FROM THEIR GOVTS.

-- MEETINGS EXPECTED AGAIN TODAY AND POSSIBLY LATER ON SATURDAY.

RADIO/TV

1. MARVIN KALB, CBS RADIO, FIRST LINE REPORT MORNING

MAY 20 FROM GENEVA:

WHEN HENRY KISSINGER WAS SECRETARY OF STATE HE USED TO GET ANNOYED AT THE ISRAELIS, AND FOR AN ODD REASON: THEY LIVED IN A DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY; THEY CONDUCTED ELECTIONS; THE PEOPLE WERE SOVEREIGN, AND THEREFORE CAPRICIOUS. KISSINGER USED TO FUME ABOUT THEIR FREE PRESS AND THEIR PARLIAMENT AND THEIR INTEREST GROUPS. WHEN HE REACHED AN AGREEMENT WITH ONE OF THE ARAB LEADERS -- SADAT OF EGYPT OR ASSAD OF SYRIA -- HE FELT REASONABLY CONFIDENT THAT THE LEADERS COULD CARRY THEIR COUNTRIES. HE DID NOT HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT A POPULAR BACKLASH. IF PRESIDENT CARTER IS FEELING THE FRUSTRATION THAT KISSINGER EXPERIENCED IN HIS DEALINGS WITH THE ISRAELIS IT IS AT LEAST UNDERSTANDABLE.

THE PRESIDENT HAD A PLAN. HE WAS KNOWN TO INVOLVE HIMSELF PERSONALLY IN THE PEACEMAKING PROCESS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. HE SENT HIS SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE TO THE MIDDLE EAST LAST FEBRUARY -- AN INITIAL RECONNAISSANCE TRIP. HE THEN RECEIVED YITZHAK RABIN, WHO WAS THEN PRIME MINISTER OF ISRAEL, AND RABIN WAS FOLLOWED BY A PROCESSION OF ARAB LEADERS -- SADAT, KHADDAM OF SYRIA, HUSSEIN OF JORDAN, ASSAD AND NEXT WEEK PRINCE FAHD OF SAUDI ARABIA. OF COURSE, THERE WAS THE ISRAELI ELECTION, AND HIS EXPERTS THROUGHOUT THE BUREAUCRACY GAVE HIM THEIR BEST INTELLIGENCE ON THE PROBABLE ELECTION RESULTS. THE LABOR ALIGNMENT, THEY UNCLASSIFIED

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SAID, WHICH HAD RULED ISRAEL FOR TWENTY-NINE YEARS, WOULD LOSE SEATS IN THE KNESSET -- THE PARLIAMENT -- BUT IT WOULD NOT LOSE THE ELECTION. THEY GAVE COMFORT TO THE PRESIDENT BECAUSE IT MEANT THAT NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENED, HE WOULD STILL BE DEALING WITH ESSENTIALLY THE SAME PEOPLE, WITH THE SAME PHILOSOPHY ABOUT PEACE.

SHIMON PERES, THE DEFENSE MINISTER, SEEMED TO BE THE LIKELY SUCCESSOR TO RABIN, AND THOUGH THERE WERE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO MEN, THEY WERE REALLY OF THE SAME CAST OF MIND. MR. CARTER ASSUMED THAT PERES WOULD COME TO WASHINGTON SOMETIME NEXT MONTH, AND THEN CARTER AND HIS ADVENTURESOME BAND OF ADVISORS WOULD COME UP WITH AN AMERICAN PEACE PLAN WHICH THEY WOULD THEN PURSUADE THE ARABS AND THE ISRAELIS TO ACCEPT. EVERYONE IN THE ADMINISTRATION OPERATED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT NO AMERICAN PLAN COULD BE IMPOSED.

THAT WAS THE OVERALL ADMINISTRATION APPROACH. THEN, LO AND BEHOLD. THE ISRAELI PEOPLE HELD AN ELECTION, AND THEY SPEAK WITH A NEW HIGHLY CONSERVATIVE, NATIONALISTIC VOICE. THEY VOTED FOR THE RIGHT WING LIKUD

OPPOSITION, PROBABLY OUT OF A SENSE OF A DESIRE FOR CHANGE, POSSIBLY OUT OF DISGUST WITH LABOR'S CORRUPTION, ITS APPARENT INABILITY TO COPE WITH THE ISRAELI ECONOMY OR WITH THE ARABS. THAT SURPRISE RESULT TOTALLY DISRUPTED AMERICAN TACTICAL AND STRATEGIC PLANNING ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST. EVERYONE IS SUDDENLY DEPRESSED. VANCE -- HE REFUSES TO SAY ANYTHING TO NEWSMEN ABOUT THE SUBJECT; HIS DEPUTIES -- THEY REFUSE TO SPECULATE. U.N. SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM -- HE FEELS ANOTHER WAR; THE ARAB LEADERS -- THEY FEEL THE U.S. OUGHT TO IMPOSE A SETTLEMENT ON ISRAEL.

THE FACT IS, LIKUD LEADER MENACHEM BEGIN HAS ARTICULATED A TOUGH POSITION ON PEACE WITH THE ARABS, BUT THAT WAS UNCLASSIFIED

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BEFORE HE HAD POWER. ONCE HE ASSUMES FULL RESPONSIBILITY, HE MAY BECOME FLEXIBLE. IT'S HAPPENED BEFORE. RICHARD NIXON BROUGHT A RIGHT-WING REPUTATION TO THE WHITE HOUSE, BUT HE OPENED THE DOOR TO CHINA. PRESIDENT CARTER COULD GET EXASPERATED, BUT IT WOULD ACCOMPLISH NOTHING. HE MUST NOW ADJUST HIS PLANS TO THE NEW REALITY IN ISRAEL, STILL STRIVING FOR THE SAME WORTHY GOAL -- AN EVENTUAL ACCOMMODATION BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE ARAB STATES.

KALB ON CBS RADIO WORLD NEWS ROUNDUP:

AFTER THIS MORNING'S SESSION, AN AFTERNOON MEETING HAS ALREADY BEEN SCHEDULED, AND ANOTHER FOR TOMORROW MORNING AS WELL. ALL THIS AMID REPORTS THAT THE TWO SIDES ARE NEAR A BREAKTHROUGH ON A FRAMEWORK FOR NEGOTIATING ANOTHER STRATEGIC ARMS AGREEMENT. A SPOKESMAN HERE SAID ALL ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM ARE NOW UNDER INTENSIVE DISCUSSION. SOURCES SAY THAT INCLUDES A BLENDING OR A MIX OF THE TWO AMERICAN PROPOSALS WHICH THE RUSSIANS REJECTED LAST MARCH, AND THE ONE SOVIET PROPOSAL WHICH THE AMERICANS SIDESTEPED. A BLENDING WOULD MEAN RETURNING TO THE FORMULA REACHED AT VLADIVOSTOK IN LATE 1974 PUTTING A 2,400 CEILING ON THE NUMBER OF STRATEGIC WEAPONS EACH SIDE COULD HAVE AS A STARTING POINT, THEN CUTTING BACK FROM THERE PERHAPS BY AS MUCH AS ONE-TO-TWO HUNDRED. THIS WOULD BE COMBINED WITH SOME RESTRAINTS ON THE AMERICAN CRUISE MISSILE AND THE SOVIET BACKFIRE BOMBER, AND A COMMITMENT BY BOTH SIDES TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS ON WHAT THE PRESIDENT CALLS "DEEP CUTS" IN THE NUCLEAR ARSENALS OF THE TWO SIDES. TODAY'S MEETINGS ARE

OBTAINING CRUCIAL.

2. BARRY SCHWEID, WTOP RADIO, MORNING MAY 20:

SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER ANDREI GROMYKO SAID HE FINDS THE

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SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS AFTER THE VICTORY BY THE LIKUD PARTY IN THE ISRAELI ELECTIONS. IN GENEVA AT THE MIDDLE EAST TALKS WITH SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE, GROMYKO TOLD REPORTERS THE SITUATION THERE IS NOT NORMAL AND THAT THE UNITED STATES AGREES WITH HIS VIEW. BUT VANCE, WHEN ASKED IF THE ELECTION HAS CAUSED A NEW DANGER, RESPONDED, "NO, THE MIDDLE EAST HAS CONTINUED DANGEROUS FOR A LONG WHILE."

GROMYKO'S VIEW IS THE TRADITIONAL SOVIET ONE, THAT THE MIDDLE EAST IS EXPLOSIVE, AND THAT ISRAEL MUST RETREAT ON A BROAD FRONT. AMERICAN OFFICIALS SAID HE WAS NO MORE EMPHATIC THAN USUAL IN MAKING THE POINT IN HIS TALKS WITH VANCE.

3. RICHARD VALERIANI, NBC-TV "TODAY SHOW", MORNING 5/20:

AFTER WHAT A SPOKESMAN TERMED A PAUSE FOR REFLECTION, SECRETARY VANCE AND SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO RESUMED THEIR TALKS ON NUCLEAR ARMS CONTROL AT THE SOVIET EMBASSY. THE PAUSE APPARENTLY GAVE GROMYKO TIME TO GET FRESH NEGOTIATING INSTRUCTIONS FROM MOSCOU. THERE ARE STILL NO DETAILS ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE TALKS, BUT THE MOOD HERE IS UPBEAT AND ALL THE OUTWARD SIGNS INDICATE PROGRESS IS BEING MADE. AMERICAN OFFICIALS SUGGESTED THAT DIFFERENCES OVER THE SCOPE OF A NEW AGREEMENT ON LIMITING NUCLEAR WEAPONS HAVE BEGUN TO BLEND, AND A COMPROMISE ON AN OUTLINE FOR A NEW TREATY APPEARS TO BE IN THE WORKS.

CHRISTOPHER

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